

A
L E T T E R
TO THE HONOURABLE
The Directors of the East-India Company,
FROM
Major General JAMES STUART.

[December 11th, 1784.]



GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave to avail myself of the indulgence you were pleased to give me in your Letter of the 16th July last, where you encouraged me to specify, and to apply for communication of such Papers as I should judge material for my own justification.

Accordingly I have hereunto annexed a List of certain *official Papers*, copies of which I find to be indispensably necessary, for enabling me to complete the State of Facts relating to my conduct while I had the honour to be Commander in Chief of your forces in the Carnatic.

These copies, as you may perceive from the titles, are requisite, not only for enabling me to state fairly (as is my intention) the assertions and reasonings of my adversaries; but requisite also for the purposes of doing myself justice, and of affording you the satisfaction which I desire. At the same time, they are necessary for enabling me to give a satisfactory answer to those paragraphs in the Dispatches from Madras, of which you were pleased to afford me the communication, by the *Extracts* which accompanied the Letter from your Secretary, Mr. Morton, dated 17th September last.

All the Papers mentioned in the inclosed List are official Papers, which were not only entered upon the Records at Madras, but copies of them were in my possession while there; and therefore I should not have had occasion to give you the trouble of this application, if I had received

(as I expected) all my Papers from that part of the world;—but the fact is, that from the hurry and manner of my embarkation at Madras, in October 1783; from the state I then found myself in, and from the circumstance of my baggage having been sent *after me* while I was on board the vessel (Fortitude) in Madras Roads, there were several boxes with essential Papers, either lost or left behind.

So soon as I had an opportunity of discovering this, by a search amongst my Papers during the passage home, I took the first occasion of writing from *St. Helena* in duplicate, to the gentlemen who had the charge of my affairs at Madras, directing them to forward to me, by the very first opportunity, the whole of my boxes with Papers; but I have been greatly disappointed in finding that none of the various ships lately arrived from India, have brought to me any dispatches whatsoever from the Coast; at least, that none have hitherto reached my hands, excepting only one letter from Major Grattan, his Majesty's Adjutant General in India.

In these circumstances, I cannot avoid giving you the trouble of this application; and I flatter myself, that you will be pleased to give the necessary orders for my being supplied with Copies of the Papers specified in the List hereunto annexed.

I have the honour to be, at all times,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most faithful, and

obedient humble Servant,

ARLINGTON STREET,
Saturday, 11 Dec. 1784.

(Signed) JAM^s STUART.

[ENCLOSURE in the preceding Letter.]

LIST of PAPERS whereof Major General STUART requests to be furnished with Copies, from the Records at the India House, viz.

N° I. LETTER from Sir Eyre Coote }
to the President, or to the } Wrote and sent by Sir Eyre Coote,
Select Committee, 17th or 18th } on the march from Chingleput
September 1782. } to the Presidency.

N° II. 1. Opinion of Major General }
Stuart, given in Committee, } See Consultations in Select Com-
20th or 21st September } mittee, 20th or 21st Septem-
1782. } ber 1782.
2. D° of Vice Admiral Sir Ed- }
ward Hughes, D°. }

N° III. Letter of Sir Eyre Coote to the }
President, or to the Select } See D°, 20th, 21st, or 22d Sep-
Committee (dated 20th or 21st } tember 1782.
September), read in the Com- }
mittee, 22d September 1782. }

N° IV. Major General Stuart's expla- }
nation of Sir Eyre Coote's } See D°, September 22d 1782.
idea of co-operation, Sep- }
tember 22d 1782; and Sir }
Eyre's Letter on that subject. }

N° V. Vice Admiral Sir Edward Hughes's }
Declaration, September 22d } See D°.
1782, on that occasion. }

N° VI. The Minute of the President, }
Lord Macartney, in Com- } See Consultations in Select Com-
mittee, October 20th 1782. } mittee October 20th 1782.

N° VII.

N° VII. The Questions from Lord Macartney to Major General Stuart, put in Committee, October 24th 1782; and Major General Stuart's Answers. } See D°, in Select Committee, October 24th 1782.

N° VIII. The two Minutes of the President, Lord Macartney, November 14th 1782, N° 1 and N° 2. } See D°, in Select Committee, November 14th 1782.

N° IX. Major General Stuart's Minute in Committee, with the Order of Battle, 24th December 1782. } See D°, December 24th 1782.

N° X. The Letter, April 12th or 13th 1783, from the Admiral to the Select Committee, where he offers the co-operation of the fleet. } See D°, April 13th or 14th 1783.

N° XI. The Minute of the President, in Committee, April 11th, 1783. } See D°, April 13th or 14th 1783.

(Signed) J. S.



From Major General STUART to the Honourable the Directors of
the East-India Company.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON the 11th December last 1784, I had the honour to address you
on the subject of certain papers, whereof copies were necessary for
enabling me to complete the State of Facts, relative to my conduct while I
had the honour to be Commander in Chief of your forces in the Carnatic;
and the particular papers were specified in a List annexed to my Letter of
that date.

Having now waited *three months*, without obtaining the communication
requested, and without being favoured with any answer, either agreeing to,
or refusing that communication, I hope it will not be thought too impor-
tunate, on my part, when I take this method of repeating my request con-
tained in my Letter of the 11th December, and of soliciting your attention
to the reasons given in that Letter, in support of the application then made.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most faithful and

obedient humble Servant.

(Signed)

JAM^S STUART.

*Arlington Street, }
16th March 1785.*

From the SECRETARY of the Honourable the Directors of the East-
India Company.

[The Answer to the Two preceding Letters.]

S I R,

IN answer to your Letters of * 15th December last and 16th instant, to the
Court of Directors of the East-India Company, I am ordered to inform
you, that, upon considering the nature of the papers you apply for, the
Court is of opinion † that they ought not to grant copies thereof.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) THO^S MORTON, Secretary.

Major General James Stuart.

*East-India House, }
the 21st March 1785.*

* This should be the 11th, being the date of the Letter referred to.

J. S.

† See the following Remarks.

B

REMARKS.

R E M A R K S.

Thus it is, that, at this late hour, I am unfortunately disappointed in the expectation of receiving a very different answer from the Court of Directors of the East-India Company, which might have enabled me, from the materials at the India House, to have given the most complete refutation of every charge, or imputation against my conduct, either adduced, or insinuated by Lord Macartney and S. C. of Fort St. George.

It was chiefly in this expectation, that I have so long delayed the Petition to his Majesty, "to be graciously pleased to order such trial or enquiry, as to his Majesty shall seem proper, respecting my military conduct, from September 1782 to September 1783, while I had the honour to command in chief the King's troops, and those of the East-India Company serving in the Carnatic;"—for which purpose I had prepared and arranged every material information yet fortunately in my possession.

The sensibility on my part, consequent of an accumulation of the most adverse acts, misrepresentations and misstatements of Lord Macartney and S. C. of Fort St. George, in respect to me and to my conduct during the abovementioned period, with the experienced and well-known consequences thereof, affected me to that degree, ever since my return to England, in May 1784, that I judged it fit to deny myself the comforts of society, until I could have it in my power, in the first place, to shew to my most gracious Sovereign the entire propriety, and, as I hope, the merit of my conduct in the station I had the honour to fill during the period above mentioned.

But the answer which I have had the mortification now to receive from the Court of Directors, will occasion, of necessity, some further delay, in order to form a new arrangement, where the material papers which I requested the communication of, must be referred to, instead of being produced—a delay, which, in every possible consideration and view, does most sensibly and seriously affect me!—Still I exist, in the most confident hopes of soon enjoying every consideration and comfort, which I do not hesitate to say, my unrequited services and personal sufferings have merited.

Thus much, however, I have judged it proper, in this place to observe upon the cause of the present delay; and also to account for the want of some material papers in this collection, which I even yet do not despair of obtaining communication of, from the Honourable Court of Directors, if ever they are pleased to reconsider the matter; but I cannot on that account any longer delay completing and arranging the materials, as far as they are now in my possession, and for the purpose above stated.

March 1785.

(Signed) JAM^s STUART.

